

## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (OER) POLICY

<b>Policy Section:</b>	Student and Academic Support Services	<b>Effective Date:</b>	April 23, 2026
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	Vice President, Academic & Student Experience	<b>Last Revised:</b>	April 23, 2026
<b>Policy Administrator:</b>	Director, Academic Experience	<b>Review Scheduled:</b>	Every 4 years
<b>Approver:</b>	Deans' Council Academic Council		
<i>The official controlled version of this document is held with the Legislative Compliance / Policy &amp; Procedure Coordinator.</i>			

### A. POLICY STATEMENTS

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 Keyano College is committed to improving access to higher education and to improving the opportunity for all students to achieve equitable outcomes. Open Educational Resources (OER) help enable equitable access to high quality, affordable, and inclusive learning materials.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to:
  - a. encourage the use of OER as viable alternatives to commercially published materials in the selection and development of curriculum materials, when possible;
  - b. promote innovation in teaching and learning;
  - c. establish OER as a sustainable and integrated component of teaching, learning, and resource development at Keyano College.

#### 2. Strategic Alignment

This policy directly supports the College's goals of accessible, relevant, and affordable education for all by:

- a. reducing student costs by replacing paid course materials with openly licensed resources, improving affordability and access;
- b. enhancing curriculum inclusivity and representation by enabling adoption and creation of culturally relevant OER that reflect multiple perspectives;
- c. integrating applied learning and research activities into teaching by facilitating the incorporation of local or regional context into openly licensed course materials;
- d. supporting innovative, outcomes-aligned teaching and learning by giving instructors the flexibility to adapt and update resources so they align with course and program outcomes, and encourage active, student-centred pedagogy; and
- e. supporting diverse learner needs by using OER that can be adapted into multiple formats, aligned with principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and/or enhanced with accessibility features (e.g., Web Content

Accessibility Guidelines) to ensure all learners can engage meaningfully with course materials.

- f. meeting the following United Nations strategies:
  - i. United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #4: Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
  - ii. United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all members of the College community.

### 4. Guiding Principles

- 4.1. Whenever possible, Keyano College encourages community members to adopt, adapt, create, and share OER—in accordance with applicable College procedures—to enhance the quality of learning experiences, broaden access to educational materials, and support innovative teaching practices.
- 4.2. The selection, modification, and/or creation of an OER is appropriate where it is of equal or higher quality than commercially licensed content and where its use supports program and course learning outcomes. Determinations of quality are made using the same academic and institutional standards applied to other instructional materials.
- 4.3. Keyano College supports faculty and staff in the identification, adoption, adaptation, and creation of OER with available resources as administered by the College.
- 4.4. The College recognizes the importance of respecting Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and ways of knowing. All OER initiatives involving such Knowledge should be guided by principles of collaboration, consultation, and ethical engagement with Indigenous Peoples and communities.

## B. DEFINITIONS

(1)	<b>Indigenous:</b>	means reference to First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples of Canada.
(2)	<b>Indigenous Traditional Knowledge:</b>	means the unique cultures, languages, values, histories, governance, and legal systems of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. It is place-based, cumulative, and dynamic. <a href="#">Ref</a> .
(3)	<b>Members of the College community:</b>	means all faculty members, staff, administrators, curriculum designers, consultants, contractors, and anyone who may be using, adapting, or creating Open Education Resources in the course of their association with Keyano College.
(4)	<b>Open Education:</b>	means resources, tools, and practices that are free of legal, financial, and technical barriers and can be fully used, shared, and adapted in the digital environment. Open Education maximizes the power of the Internet to make education more affordable, accessible, and effective. <a href="#">Ref</a>

(5)	<b>Open license:</b>	means Open licenses, such as Creative Commons licenses, allow copyright holders to retain ownership of a work, while allowing others to freely use, modify, and share the work without requesting permission.
(6)	<b>Open Educational Resources:</b>	means teaching, learning, and research materials in any format or medium that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation, and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions. <a href="#">Ref</a>

## C. RELATED POLICIES

- Academic Freedom Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Copyright and Fair Dealing Policy
- Curriculum Development Policy
- Library Collection Development Policy

## D. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Open Educational Resources (OER) Procedure

This work © 2025 by Keyano College was adapted from the [Institutional OER Policy – Template Ver 2](#) from the Commonwealth of Learning, and is licensed under the Creative Commons [CC BY 4.0](#) license.



## E. RELATED LEGISLATION

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- UNESCO Recommendations on OER (UNESCO 2019)

## F. REVISION HISTORY

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Description of Change	Sections	Person who Entered Revision (Position Title)	Person who Authorized Revision (Position Title)
04/23/2026	New policy		Chair of Library Services	Interim Vice President Academic & Student Experience